


- the hydroxylated and/or acetylated steroids are isolated from the medium after bioconversion,

wherein said yeasts are yeasts transformed so as to express the product of the *Cyp7b* gene.

18. The method of claim 17, for producing a hydroxylated steroid, wherein said yeasts have low or zero APAT activity.

19. The method of claim 17, for producing a hydroxylated steroid, wherein said yeasts are cultured under conditions which are oxidative.

 20. The method of claim 17, wherein said precursor contains a 7 position which can be hydroxylated.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein said precursor is chosen from the group consisting of 3-hydroxylated steroids, 3 $\beta$ -hydroxylated steroids, and steroids which has a 3-keto function.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein said precursor is a steroid with a structure chosen from the group consisting of structures of the androstane, androstene, pregnane, pregnene, cholane, cholene, cholesterol, ergostane, ergostene, testosterone and stigmastane type.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said precursor is chosen from the group consisting of DHEA, testosterone, pregnenolone, pregnanolone, 25-hydroxycholesterol, 5- $\alpha$ -androstane-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol and 5- $\alpha$ -androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein the APAT activity of said yeasts has been rendered low or zero by inactivation of the *atf2* gene or by using an *atf2*<sup>-</sup> mutant.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein said yeasts also carry dehydrogenase activity.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said dehydrogenase activity is a 17-dehydrogenase activity which produces a 17-hydroxylated derivative.


27. The method of claim 26, wherein said 17-dehydrogenase activity is carried by the *yi1124w* gene.

28. The method of claim 17, wherein the 17-dehydrogenase activity of said yeasts has been rendered low or zero.

29. The method of claim 17, wherein said yeasts are of the genus *Saccharomyces*.

30. The method of claim 17, wherein said *Cyp7b* gene is under the control of a yeast promoter chosen in the group consisting of CYC1, TEF1 and TDH3.

31. A yeast strain having zero 17-dehydrogenase activity by inactivation of the *yii124w* gene.

 32. A yeast strain transformed with a plasmid comprising an expression cassette expressing the *Cyp7b* gene.

33. A method preparing a medicinal product for the treatment of diseases of the central nervous system comprising the step of preparing a steroid by the method of claim 17.--

